

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, September 11, 2000
Volume 36—Number 36
Pages 1997–2024

Contents

Addresses and Remarks

Legislative agenda—2001
New York
Dinner for Hillary Clinton in Syracuse—
1997
Luncheon hosted by U.N. Secretary-
General Annan in New York City—2011
Reception for Hillary Clinton in
Cazenovia—2000
Reception for leaders of African nations in
New York City—2015
U.N. Millennium Summit in New York
City—2007
U.N. Security Council in New York City—
2017
Radio address—1999

Communications to Congress

Convention for the Unification of Certain
Rules for International Carriage by Air,
message transmitting—2013
Costa Rica-U.S. treaty for the return of stolen,
embezzled, or appropriated vehicles and
aircraft, message transmitting—2007
Ireland-U.S. Consular Convention, message
transmitting protocol—2005
Lithuania-U.S. investment treaty, message
transmitting—2006
Madrid Agreement on International
Registration of Marks, message transmitting
protocol—2004
National blood alcohol content standard to
combat drunk driving, letter—2012
Panama-U.S. treaty for the return of stolen,
robbed, or converted vehicles and aircraft,
message transmitting—2006

Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters in New York City—
2009, 2014, 2021

Joint Statements

Permanent Members of the United Nations
Security Council on the Millennium
Summit—2018
Strategic Stability Cooperation Initiative
Between the United States of America and
Russian Federation—2009

Letters and Messages

Labor Day, message—1997

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

China, President Jiang—2021
Russia, President Putin—2009
South Korea, President Kim—2014

Proclamations

Health in Aging Month—2003

Statements by the President

Death of international aid workers in West
Timor—2012
House of Representatives action
“Child Support Distribution Act”—2020
Estate tax legislation—2020
Interagency Commission on Crime and
Security in U.S. Seaports, report—2021
Times Square National Debt Clock,
retirement—2020

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—2024
Checklist of White House press releases—
2024
Digest of other White House
announcements—2022
Nominations submitted to the Senate—2023

Editor’s Note: The President was in New York City on September 8, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under

regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, September 8, 2000

**Message on the Observance
of Labor Day, 2000**

September 1, 2000

Warm greetings to all Americans as we celebrate Labor Day and honor the millions of working men and women across our nation whose achievements have brought us to this moment of unprecedented economic strength and prosperity.

When I took office in 1993, I committed my Administration to putting in place an agenda to get America back on its economic feet while restoring the values of opportunity, responsibility, and community. I believed that we could create a strong economy that was pro-labor as well as pro-business; that was pro-family as well as pro-work. I am proud that we succeeded in raising the minimum wage, signing into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, and cutting taxes for millions of low-income working families by doubling the earned income tax credit. And today, thanks to the hard work, creativity, and determination of the American people, our country is enjoying the longest economic expansion in our history, with more than 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, the lowest African American and Hispanic unemployment rates ever recorded, the lowest female unemployment rate in 40 years, and the smallest welfare rolls in 35 years.

But there is still much to do if we are to build the future we want for our children. We must use this rare moment of peace and prosperity to protect Social Security, modernize Medicare, provide prescription drug coverage for our nation's senior citizens, and enact a strong and enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. We must raise the minimum wage again so that all our workers are able to earn a decent income. We must bridge the digital divide and encourage new investments in underserved regions so that every American community shares in the promise and oppor-

tunity of today's dynamic economy. And we must provide America's children with the quality education they need to reach their full potential.

The 20th century was a time of enormous growth and progress for our nation, in large part because of the skill, imagination, and dedication of America's workers. As we celebrate the first Labor Day of this new century, let us honor and thank the working men and women of our nation by building on their accomplishments to create a brighter future for all our people.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday.

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks at a Dinner for Hillary
Clinton in Syracuse, New York**

September 1, 2000

Thank you very much. Well, first, I want to thank Duke and Billie for having us here. I want to thank the neighbors in the back for putting up the bathrooms. [*Laughter*] And I want to thank the neighbors across the street for putting up with the sound. Hello, folks! How are you over there? You get to hear my pitch for free. I want you to vote for Hillary, too. [*Laughter*]

We've all had a good time, and I want to hear the musicians some more. And we've got a magician, and I want to see this. I spent 8 years trying to be one. [*Laughter*] So I just want to say a couple of words here.

First of all, I want to thank the people of New York, including the people of Syracuse and central New York, for being so good to me and Hillary and Al and Tipper Gore for the last 8 years. It's meant a lot to me. Secondly, I want to thank my buddy Terry McAuliffe and his family for being like a second family to Hillary and me. And little Jack

is out there passing out Hillary stickers. He even gave me one. He wasn't sure who I was for. [*Laughter*] And he wanted to make sure I didn't go soft on him between now and election day, so I appreciate that.

I don't know what I can say to you, because you know where I stand on this election. But I think there are a couple of points I'd like to make that I know. First of all, you should know that to an extraordinary extent, Hillary has played a substantive, positive role in the work we've done over these last 8 years. Everything we've done in education, health care, and helping people balance work and family and taking care of kids, she's had a hand in—from the family and medical leave law in 1993 to our efforts right through this year to promote adoption and to take better care of foster kids and to take care of those kids that go out on their own in the world with nobody to take care of them—and I'm really proud of that—to getting 2 million kids health insurance to all the things we've done to open the doors of college for all. We now have 10 million people getting tax credits for college education today. And she has fought for every single one of those things. I'm very proud of her.

The second thing I want you to know is, because economics is an issue in central New York and north of here, when I was Governor of Arkansas for 12 years, we had to completely turn the economy around. We did not have an unemployment rate below the national average, until I ran for President in 1992, for a decade. And we worked for 10 long years.

During that time, my wife went on the boards of three Arkansas companies—two Arkansas companies and one other company—and learned what it would take to get people to invest money and to bring jobs to places that had been left behind. And I'm just telling you, of your choices in the Senate race, you've got one person that spent a serious 10 years working to redevelop the economies of places that aren't doing as well as they ought to be doing. And that's experience. It's money in the bank for you, and you ought to take advantage of it.

Now, the third thing I want to say is, I think she can have an enormously beneficial impact for New York all around the country

and all around the world. She can help you in all kinds of ways. One of the reasons that I—I wanted her to run for the Senate if she wanted to—who am I to ever tell anybody not to run for anything? But I said, “You know, you've got to be willing to pay the price. I'm going to India and Pakistan, and you can't go. I'm going to Africa, and you can't go. I'm going to Colombia, and you can't go.” So everywhere I go in the world, people I don't even know come to me and say—everywhere in the world—say, “I am pulling for your wife. I'm sorry she can't be here.”

At the state dinner the other night in Nigeria, the President of Nigeria, one of the most highly regarded leaders of any developing country in the world, a decorated army general, gets up in the state dinner and says, “I'm really sorry your wife is not here, but I'm glad she's home, and I hope she wins her election.” Not normally said at state dinners.

I was in Bombay with my daughter, in India, and this woman who spends her life going out into villages trying to help millions, literally, of women who have been left behind figure out how to borrow money, start businesses, and take better care of their kids—all she talked about to me was Hillary.

And I'm telling you that because there is a reason that the people that are running against her spend all their time trying to run her down. Because they know if the people of New York ever figure out who she is, what kind of person she is, what she's done, and what she can do for them, she will win in a walk. That's what I want you to do in this election.

I thank you for your contributions, but the most important thing is that you realize that elections are decided by people who don't know the candidates, not by people who do. And she is running a campaign based on the issues and the honest differences between her and her opponent.

And you know, their campaign is basically try to paint a—try to do reverse plastic surgery on her. Right? I mean, let's face it. So you gave her the money, and I thank you for that. And she'll spend it well. But I want you to go out and take some time every day between now and November to tell people

you came here; you saw this woman; you like her; you admire her; she'd be good for you, good for your kids, good for your future, and great for New York. If you'll do that, she will win on election day.

Thank you, and God bless you. [*Applause*]
Thank you.

I've got to say one other thing. This is flat pander, but I'm not running for office, so I can get away with it. I have, for the last 27 years, eaten barbecue for a living. I come from a place where barbecue is not food; it is a way of life. [*Laughter*] It is a philosophy of human nature. I have rarely had any as good as this. These people are great, and I thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts John (Duke) and Billie Jean Kinney; Terence McAuliffe, chair, 2000 Democratic National Convention, and his son, Jack; and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 2, 2000

Good morning. On this Labor Day weekend, as we relax with our families, we honor the hard-working men and women who've helped build the strongest economy in our Nation's history. With more than 22 million new jobs, record surpluses, the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years, all Americans have a right to be proud.

But even at this time of unprecedented prosperity, millions of Americans still are working every day for the minimum wage. Today I want to talk about giving them a much deserved raise.

Every one of us knows someone who works for the minimum wage and often struggles to make ends meet. People like Cheryl Costas, a mother of four I met just a few months ago. Cheryl's from a small town in Pennsylvania. She works at a local convenience store for the minimum wage so she can support her four children and her disabled husband. As she said to me, \$5.15 an hour doesn't pay the bills. It doesn't put food on the table.

Seventy percent of all workers on the minimum wage, like Cheryl, are adults; almost 50 percent work full-time; 60 percent are women. In many cases, they are their family's sole breadwinners, struggling to raise their kids on \$10,700 a year. These hard-working Americans need a raise.

For more than 7 years now, our administration has sought to build an America that promotes responsibility and rewards work. That's why we nearly doubled the earned-income tax credit to cut taxes for millions of hard-pressed working parents; why we passed a children's tax credit for \$500 that 15 million Americans have taken advantage of; and why we provided for tax cuts for college tuition that 10 million families have taken advantage of; why we fought to pass the Family and Medical Leave Act that over 20 million Americans have taken advantage of to take a little time off when a baby is born or a parent is sick; why we've worked for better health care coverage and more child care coverage; and why, in 1996, I signed legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour over 2 years.

It's long passed time we raised it again. In fact, more than a year-and-a-half ago, I proposed to raise the minimum wage by a dollar over 2 years. That's a modest increase that merely restores the minimum wage to what it was way back in 1982 in real dollar terms.

Still, that's no small change to more than 10 million Americans who work for the minimum wage. For a full-time worker, it means another \$2,000 a year, enough for a family of four to buy groceries for 7 months or pay their rent check for 5.

But month after month, even with bipartisan support in Congress, the Republican leadership has sat on our proposal to raise the minimum wage, costing the average full-time worker more than a \$1,000 in lost wages. So far it's been the victim of every legislative maneuver in the congressional handbook, from poison-pill attachments to special interest strong-arming.

Some Republicans have even reverted to the same old attacks they used back in 1996, the last time we raised the minimum wage. Back then, they called the increase, and I quote, a "job killer" that would, quote, "lead

to a juvenile crime wave of epic proportions.” Well, my fellow Americans, the only thing of epic proportions that’s happened since 1996 has been the continued growth of our economy. Since we last raised the minimum wage, our economy has created more than 11 million new jobs, and juvenile crime has gone down every year. Study after study has shown that raising the minimum wage is not only the right thing to do for working families; it’s the smart thing to do for our economy.

So my message to Congress is simple: Stop stalling. If the subject is tax breaks for the wealthy or legislative loopholes for special interest, this Congress moves with breathtaking speed. It’s now time for the Republican leadership to stop riding the brakes on the minimum wage.

In the last week, with the election fast approaching, we’ve seen signs that some Republican leaders may be willing finally to work with us. So when they come back to Washington next week, I urge them to send me a minimum wage bill as the first order of business. It should also include a moderate tax cut package that everyone can agree on, without harmful provisions that would threaten overtime protections.

Once we secure the victory for hard-pressed working families, we can get to work on other pressing priorities—on education, Social Security, Medicare, prescription drug coverage, a Patients’ Bill of Rights, a middle class tax package including deductions for college tuition, and paying down the debt. Now, raising the minimum wage isn’t just about dollars and cents; it’s also about fundamental values: everybody counts; everyone’s work should be rewarded; we all do better when we help each other.

America’s workers have kept their end of the deal, and let’s keep ours and honor Labor Day the right way, by giving working Americans the raise they have earned.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:05 p.m. on September 1 at a private residence in Cazenovia, NY, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks at a Reception for Hillary Clinton in Cazenovia, New York

September 2, 2000

Thank you very much. Thank you for coming. I want to thank Christine and Patty and Les and Sandy and Sarah and everyone else who had anything to do with this event. But especially, I thank our hosts for welcoming us to this beautiful, beautiful home, and we should give them a big hand, I think. [*Applause*]

Thank you, Kelly. And the madrigals were great. Let’s give them another hand. And thank you, Kelly. You were great. [*Applause*] Thank you.

Well, we have had a great day. We just came from the State Fair, and there were tens of thousands of people. And after the other candidate for the Senate refused to eat a sausage sandwich there, this one did not. Let’s get right down to the basic issues in this election. [*Laughter*]

Let me say, I want to be very brief because I want Hillary to make the speech tonight, but I want to just make a couple of points. First of all, we are very grateful to the people of New York State for being so good to us and to Al and Tipper Gore these last 8 years. New York has always been there for us. And I hope that you feel that America is better than it was 8 years ago and that it’s worked out pretty well for us.

The second point I would like to make is an abbreviated version of what I said in Los Angeles at the Democratic Convention. This country is in very good shape. But how a country uses its prosperity is just as stern a test of its judgment, its values, and its vision as how you deal with adversity. And I’m old enough to know now that we may never have another time like this in our lifetime. And in my lifetime, we have never had a time like this before, when we have at once so much prosperity and so little internal stress and external threat.

So we really have a chance to do some things we’ve never done before, including bring economic opportunity to places in up-state New York that aren’t part of our prosperity yet, including giving all of our children a world-class education, including dealing with our long-term challenges from the aging

of America, the long-term environmental challenges of the country.

I want Hillary to talk about all of this, but I tell you, how elections come out—I've been involved with them since I was—the first election I ever worked in, I was 8 years old, passing out cards at the polling place for my uncle who was running for State legislature. They had 2-year terms, and his wife made him quit after one term because she didn't like politics very much. [Laughter] But the lesson did not spread to our branch of the family. [Laughter]

But I'll tell you what I've learned in all that long time: The winner is often determined by what the people believe the election is about. And I can tell you that for 30 years, from the first time I ever met Hillary, the first thing she ever talked about to me—the welfare of children, and how families cope with work and having kids and succeeded in both ways. I've watched her for 30 years work on foster care, on adoptions, on health care for kids.

And during the period when I was Governor, because of the adversity we faced in our home then in Arkansas, she went on a bunch of big corporation boards; she went out working on how to find—get jobs into places that had been left behind. And when I ran for President, as Governor, the whole thing had turned around, in no small measure because of a lot of the work she had done in the rural areas and the small towns, in the left-behind areas of our State.

So I'll tell you two things. If you want somebody that understands how to try to create economic opportunity in places that have been left behind and if you want somebody that has spent a whole lifetime always sticking up for kids, for families, and for the proposition that every child matters, she's the best person in America New York could send to the U.S. Senate.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to dinner hosts Leslie and Patty Woodcock, and their daughter, Christine Woodcock Dettor, who introduced the President; dinner cochair Sandy Souder and Sarah Nichols; and Kelly McDonald, who sang a song for the President.

Remarks on the Legislative Agenda

September 5, 2000

Thank you. First of all, I want to thank Senator Daschle and Leader Gephardt for the work they have done and the statements they have made. And I also want to thank Senator Reid and Representative Bonior for their role in the leadership of our party in the House and Senate, and Mr. Podesta and Mr. Lew and Secretary Summers and others were in the meeting that we've just completed.

What we're trying to say is that we are committed to breaking the legislative logjam, but we have to move forward with fiscal responsibility, with responsible tax cuts, and with public investments that give all our people a chance and fuel our prosperity. For 7½ years now, we have followed that program, and it has worked very well for America. It has paid enormous dividends.

Unfortunately, the strategy pursued by the Republican leaders in Congress, I believe, would squander that remarkable success. Month by month and bill by bill, they are attempting to spend our projected surplus for years to come, an estimated \$2 trillion, on massive and reckless tax cuts for the privileged few. This isn't fiscally responsible. It isn't fair, and it doesn't even take into account that cost that would follow on their plans to partially privatize Social Security, or any spending promises they have made to the American people in this election season.

I believe we owe it to our children to stay on course to pay off the national debt over the next 12 years. If we do it, interest rates will stay low; businesses can grow; generations will know that Social Security and Medicare will be there for them. And I might add, as the Council of Economic Advisers reported to me, it amounts to a tax cut, because paying off the debt, as opposed to spending it all, will keep interest rates, at a minimum—one percent lower a year, over the next decade—and that is worth \$250 billion to the average American families in this country in lower home mortgages, \$30 billion in lower car payments, and \$15 billion in lower college loan payments. So that's a \$300 billion tax cut real people get, just by doing

the right thing, and I think it's important that we never forget that.

As Dick said, the American people want us to address the pressing issues that affect their daily lives. Yesterday we celebrated Labor Day. Today it's time to honor the labor of the American people who sent us here. We should do it by raising the minimum wage by a dollar. Congress should stop holding up the process and make it the first order of business.

We should also have sensible tax cuts in the areas of health care, college tuition, long-term care, the environment, and of course, the new markets tax cut, which is a tax cut that all of us support for upper income people to encourage them to invest in lower income people in lower income neighborhoods that have been left behind by our prosperity.

Congress should pass a strong Patients' Bill of Rights, and Senator Daschle, I hope we'll hear that comment that you said over and over again, that the Republican National Committee—the Senate Committee has now identified our bill as the real Patients' Bill of Rights, and I want to thank them for that and ask them to vote accordingly, now that we're back in business.

Americans and people with disabilities should not have to wait another year for an affordable voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit. The money is there. We ought to do this, and we ought not to be wasting a lot of time seeing how much we could parse down what is something clearly a life-or-death matter for so many Americans. Our Nation's 44 million uninsured citizens shouldn't have to wait for a significant expansion of health care.

We have a proposal on the table that would allow the States to enroll the parents of children who are eligible for our Children's Health Insurance Program. We have a proposal on the table that would allow people between the ages of 55 and 65 to enroll in Medicare if they lose their previous health insurance and give them a tax credit to make it affordable. Now, these proposals could take care of 25 percent, and I might say the most needy 25 percent of those 44 million Americans without health insurance. We have the money to do it.

We need to keep working to put 50,000 more police on the street. The 100,000 police program has worked very well. We have the lowest violent crime rate in 27 years now, and we need to keep doing what has worked. We should also pass commonsense gun safety legislation and, I hope, the hate crimes bill. I applaud the Senate for passing the hate crimes legislation, including the Republicans who joined our unanimous Democratic caucus in voting for it—or virtually unanimous—and I hope that the House will follow suit.

We need to strip out the anti-environmental riders and press for cleaner air and cleaner water. We need to pass the measures that will enable the American people to combat global warming, and we need to approve permanent conservation funding to protect our natural heritage. We also need to strengthen our laws for providing for equal pay for equal work, pass debt relief for the emerging democracies, normalize trade relations with China.

Most important, we should not forget that the Congress comes back at the beginning of the school year, and there are pressing educational needs for America. The children of this country need more teachers and smaller classes in modern classrooms. We need to continue to support 100,000 good new teachers to reduce class size, and we need Congress to determine finally we're going to do our part to help the school districts of this country replace broken-down buildings and trailers with modern classrooms. Again I will say, we believe in sensible tax cuts for middle class families that make education and long-term care more affordable, not cuts that threaten our prosperity.

Last week I vetoed the Republican estate tax repeal, not because I don't favor reform of the estate tax laws but because absolute repeal is not fiscally responsible, and it's not fair. It was a budget buster that ignored 98 percent of America's families.

Now, later this week, the Republicans say they are going to vote to try to override my veto of the estate tax repeal. Needless to say, the small number of people that are affected have an enormous amount of influence, especially if they can convince a lot of other people that they are affected by the law. But I think it's very important for the American

people to remember something else about the estate tax repeal: It is not a bill standing on its own.

Many of these bills they've passed—it's very much—what they've done this year is better politically for them than what they did last year. Last year they sent me a bill down here that was obviously very big and unwieldy and ineffective.

This year, as Mr. Gephardt said, they're sending them down here in discrete bills. And every one of them appeals to some constituency or another. But when you add them all up, it's still part of a \$2 trillion plan that would wipe out the entire projected budget surplus. And I will say again, that is before we agreed to take Medicare spending off budget, the Medicare taxes, before they had to pay for a privatization plan for Social Security, and before they had to pay for any of their spending plans. They take away all the money that the country would have in a balanced budget to invest in education and health care and the environment for a decade. It is wrong.

Now, they've got a right to try to override any veto that I make. That's the way that the Constitution works. But I wish they would try just as hard to muster up the two-thirds to raise the minimum wage for people that are working 40 hours a week, the students that are still sitting in crowded classrooms and trailers, the patients fighting for the health care they need, the seniors struggling to pay for prescription drugs.

You know, if my health holds up, I'll probably be one of those people that will be fortunate enough to have some estate tax to pay one day, or my heirs will. But I'd kind of like to see us spend a little time—we seem to spend all of our time fighting in Congress over what they want to do to help people who, like me, that America has been very good to. I think we ought to spend a little more time working on the minimum wage, the schoolchildren, the people who need the Patients' Bill of Rights, the seniors who need the prescription drugs.

This is a great and good country. We should be fair to everybody. I'm for changes in the estate tax. All of us are. They all voted for it, but the Republicans wanted an issue. They want it to be an all-or-nothing thing,

and I just don't think that the most fortunate people in this country should be the only ones that are considered here.

I think the folks that don't have anybody up here lobbying for them and the folks that don't have the ability to contribute to any of our campaigns, but to keep this country going day-in and day-out, their kids deserve a good education too; their parents deserve medicine too; and they deserve to have the protections that the Patients' Bill of Rights gives that the rest of us can buy. That's what I believe, and we've got 5 weeks to give it to them, and we ought to just saddle up and do it.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:07 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Proclamation 7337—Health in Aging Month, 2000

September 5, 2000

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were only 3 million older Americans; today, at the dawn of the 21st century, there are 34 million older citizens in our Nation, and we anticipate that, by the year 2050, one in four Americans will be 65 or older. We can be grateful that because of extraordinary advances in medicine, technology, and science, as well as increased public awareness of the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness, these older citizens are now living longer, more active, more productive lives than any previous generation.

The dramatic increase in the life span of our citizens, however, presents us with new challenges. While Americans are no longer dying from many of the diseases that affected previous generations, they must now contend with chronic conditions such as arthritis, osteoporosis, heart and lung disease, dementia, and stroke. These conditions are major causes of disability and death in our Nation,

and their financial impact, in terms of medication, treatment, and long-term care costs, can be crushing. Older Americans now pay an average of more than \$1,200 a year for prescription drugs, up from \$559 in 1992, and that amount is projected to increase to more than \$2,800 over the next decade. Millions of these older citizens have no prescription drug coverage at all, and millions more have expensive, inadequate coverage or are at risk of losing what coverage they have.

My Administration has taken a number of important actions to meet these new challenges. We have proposed a new affordable Medicare prescription drug benefit option available to all beneficiaries. This new benefit should ensure that every beneficiary, whether covered under Medicare, managed care, or a retiree health plan, will be able to access prescription drug coverage, including protection against catastrophic drug costs. We have also proposed an initiative to assist millions of older Americans and their families in meeting the financial challenges of long-term care, including a \$3,000 tax credit for people with long-term care needs or their caregivers and improved equity in Medicaid eligibility for people living in home- and community-based settings rather than nursing facilities.

We are continuing our research efforts into chronic conditions that affect older Americans, such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and diabetes, and I am proud that my proposed budget for fiscal 2001 includes a historic \$1 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health. And, most important, we remain committed to meeting the health and financial needs of older Americans by protecting and strengthening Social Security and Medicare and modernizing, improving, and reauthorizing the Older Americans Act.

But there is still much to do if we are to sustain the health and quality of life of our increasingly aging population. We must raise awareness of the unique needs of older Americans and ensure that caregivers and health professionals are specially trained to treat the elderly. We must expand our research efforts into chronic conditions that affect older Americans. And we must improve health care financing, delivery, and administrative structures so that health plans and

providers have the flexibility they need to reduce the prevalence of chronic diseases, slow the rate of disability progression, and ensure the continuity and quality of care.

The health of older Americans varies from individual to individual and can depend on many factors, but we all recognize the critical importance of quality medical care, financial security, and a caring support system to sustaining a high quality of life. As our Nation's population ages, let us work together to ensure that these essential components of good health are available to every American.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 2000 as Health in Aging Month, 2000. I urge government officials, health care providers, business and community leaders, and the American people to work together to promote healthy aging and to ensure that older citizens enjoy fulfilling, independent, and productive lives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 7, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 8.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Protocol to the Madrid
Agreement on International
Registration of Marks With
Documentation**

September 5, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to accession, the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks adopted at Madrid June 27, 1989, which entered into force December 1, 1995. Also transmitted for the information of the

Senate are the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol and a February 2, 2000, letter from the Council of the European Union regarding voting within the Assembly established under the Protocol.

The Protocol will offer several major advantages to U.S. trademark owners. First, registration of trademarks internationally will be possible without obtaining a local agent and without filing an application in each Contracting Party. If the United States accedes to the Protocol, the Protocol will provide a trademark registration filing system that will permit a U.S. trademark owner to file for registration in any number of Contracting Parties by filing a single standardized application in English, and with a single payment in dollars, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). The PTO will forward the application to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (respectively, the “International Bureau” and “WIPO”), which administers the Protocol. Second, under the Protocol, renewal of a trademark registration in each Contracting Party may be made by filing a single request with a single payment. These two advantages should make access to international protection of trademarks more readily available to both large and small U.S. businesses.

Third, the Protocol will facilitate the recording internationally of a change of ownership of a mark with a single filing. United States businesses experience difficulties effecting valid assignments of their marks internationally due to burdensome administrative requirements for recordation of an assignment in many countries. These difficulties can hinder the normal transfer of business assets. The Protocol will permit the holder of an international registration to record the assignment of a trademark in all designated Contracting Parties upon the filing of a single request with the International Bureau, accompanied by a single payment. To carry out the provisions of the Protocol, identical implementing legislation, which is supported by my Administration, was passed by the House of Representatives and introduced in the Senate.

Accession to the Protocol is in the best interests of the United States. Therefore, I rec-

ommend the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to accession, subject to the declarations described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 5, 2000.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Protocol Amending the 1950
Ireland-United States Consular
Convention With Documentation**

September 5, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the Senate’s advice and consent to ratification, the Protocol Amending the 1950 Consular Convention Between the United States of America and Ireland, signed at Washington on June 16, 1998. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol expands the scope of tax exemption under the 1950 Consular Convention Between the United States of America and Ireland to provide for reciprocal exemption from all taxes, including Value Added Taxes (VAT) on goods and services for the official use of the mission or for the personal use of mission members and families. The amendment will provide financial benefit to the United States, both through direct savings on embassy purchases of goods and services as well as through lowering the cost of living for United States Government employees assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Dublin.

Because the Protocol will achieve long-term tax exemption on the purchase of goods and services for our embassy and personnel in Ireland, I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 5, 2000.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Lithuania-United States
Investment Treaty With
Documentation**

September 5, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annex and Protocol, signed at Washington on January 14, 1998. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Treaty.

The bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with Lithuania was the third such treaty signed between the United States and a Baltic region country. The Treaty will protect U.S. investment and assist Lithuania in its efforts to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for U.S. private investment and thereby strengthening the development of its private sector.

The Treaty furthers the objectives of U.S. policy toward international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the computation and payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investments; freedom of investments from specified performance requirements; fair, equitable, and most-favored-nation treatment; and the investor's freedom to choose to resolve disputes with the host government through international arbitration.

I recommend that the Senate consider this Treaty as soon as possible, and give its advice

and consent to ratification of the Treaty at an early date.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 5, 2000.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Panama-United States Treaty for
the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or
Converted Vehicles and Aircraft
With Documentation**

September 5, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Vehicles and Aircraft, with Annexes, signed at Panama on June 6, 2000, and a related exchange of notes of July 25, 2000. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of stolen vehicle treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to eliminate the difficulties faced by owners of vehicles that have been stolen and transported across international borders. Like several in this series, this Treaty also covers aircraft. When it enters into force, it will be an effective tool to facilitate the return of U.S. vehicles and aircraft that have been stolen, robbed, or converted and taken to Panama.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 5, 2000.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Costa Rica-United States Treaty for the Return of Stolen, Embezzled, or Appropriated Vehicles and Aircraft With Documentation

September 5, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica for the Return of Stolen, Embezzled, or Appropriated Vehicles and Aircraft, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, signed at San Jose on July 2, 1999. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of stolen vehicle treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to eliminate the difficulties faced by owners of vehicles that have been stolen and transported across international borders. Like several in this series, this Treaty also covers aircraft. When it enters into force, this Treaty will be an effective tool to facilitate the return of U.S. vehicles and aircraft that have been stolen, embezzled, or appropriated and taken to Costa Rica.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 5, 2000.

Remarks to the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York City

September 6, 2000

Madam President, Mr. Secretary-General, my fellow leaders, let me begin by saying it is a great honor to have this unprecedented gathering of world leaders in the United States.

We come together not just at a remarkable moment on the calendar but at the dawn of a new era in human affairs, when globalization and the revolution in information technology have brought us closer together than ever before. To an extent unimaginable just a few years ago, we reach across geographical and cultural divides. We know what is going on in each other's countries. We share experiences, triumphs, tragedies, aspirations.

Our growing interdependence includes the opportunity to explore and reap the benefits of the far frontiers of science and the increasingly interconnected economy. And as the Secretary-General just reminded us, it also includes shared responsibilities to free humanity from poverty, disease, environmental destruction, and war. That responsibility, in turn, requires us to make sure the United Nations is up for the job.

Fifty-five years ago the U.N. was formed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Today there are more people in this room with the power to achieve that goal than have ever been gathered in one place. We find today fewer wars between nations, but more wars within them. Such internal conflicts, often driven by ethnic and religious differences, took 5 million lives in the last decade, most of them completely innocent victims.

These conflicts present us with a stark challenge: Are they part of the scourge the U.N. was established to prevent? If so, we must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity but still find a way to protect people as well as borders.

The last century taught us that there are times when the international community must take a side, not merely stand between the sides or on the sidelines. We faced such a test and met it when Mr. Milosevic tried to close the last century with a final chapter of ethnic cleansing and slaughter. We have faced such a test for 10 years in Iraq, where the U.N. has approved a fair blueprint spelling out what must be done. It is consistent with our resolutions and our values, and it must be enforced.

We face another test today in Burma, where a brave and popular leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, once again has been confined, with

her supporters in prisons and her country in distress, in defiance of repeated U.N. resolutions.

But most conflicts and disputes are not so clear-cut. Legitimate grievances and aspirations pile high on both sides. Here there is no alternative to principled compromise and giving up old grudges in order to get on with life. Right now, from the Middle East to Burundi to the Congo to South Asia, leaders are facing this kind of choice, between confrontation and compromise.

Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Barak are with us here today. They have promised to resolve the final differences between them this year, finally completing the Oslo process embodied in the Declaration of Principles signed 7 years ago this month at the White House.

To those who have supported the right of Israel to live in security and peace, to those who have championed the Palestinian cause these many years, let me say to all of you: They need your support now, more than ever, to take the hard risks for peace. They have the chance to do it, but like all life's chances, it is fleeting and about to pass. There is not a moment to lose.

When leaders do seize this chance for peace, we must help them. Increasingly, the United Nations has been called into situations where brave people seek reconciliation, but where the enemies of peace seek to undermine it. In East Timor, had the United Nations not engaged, the people would have lost the chance to control their future.

Today I was deeply saddened to learn of the brutal murder of the three U.N. relief workers there by the militia in West Timor, and I urge the Indonesian authorities to put a stop to these abuses.

In Sierra Leone, had the United Nations not engaged, countless children now living would be dead. But in both cases, the U.N. did not have the tools to finish the job. We must provide those tools with peacekeepers that can be rapidly deployed with the right training and equipment, missions well-defined and well-led, with the necessary civilian police.

And we must work, as well, to prevent conflict; to get more children in school; to relieve more debt in developing countries; to do

more to fight malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS, which cause a quarter of all the deaths in the world; to do more to promote prevention and to stimulate the development and affordable access to drugs and vaccines; to do more to curb the trade in items which generate money that make conflict more profitable than peace, whether diamonds in Africa or drugs in Colombia.

All these things come with a price tag. And all nations, including the United States, must pay it. These prices must be fairly apportioned, and the U.N. structure of finances must be fairly reformed so the organization can do its job. But those in my country or elsewhere, who believe we can do without the U.N. or impose our will upon it, misread history and misunderstand the future.

Let me say to all of you, this is the last opportunity I will have as President to address this General Assembly. It is the most august gathering we have ever had, because so many of you have come from so far away. If I have learned anything in these last 8 years, it is, whether we like it or not, we are growing more interdependent. We must look for more solutions in which all sides can claim a measure of victory and move away from choices in which someone is required to accept complete defeat. That will require us to develop greater sensitivity to our diverse political, cultural, and religious claims. But it will require us to develop even greater respect for our common humanity.

The leaders here assembled can rewrite human history in the new millennium. If we have learned the lessons of the past, we can leave a very different legacy for our children. But we must believe the simple things: that everywhere in every land, people in every station matter; everyone counts; everyone has a role to play; and we all do better when we help each other.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations. In his remarks, he referred to President Tarja Halonen of Finland, Co-Chair, U.N. Millennium Summit; U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; and President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in New York City

September 6, 2000

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Have you any expectations?

President Putin. Only positive expectations.

President Clinton. I agree with that. This is just part of our ongoing, regular consultation. We're going to have another chance to meet in Asia in a couple of months, and we have a lot of things to talk about. But it's part of our continuing effort to strengthen our relationships and to help our people.

[At this point, a question was asked and answered in Russian, and no translation was provided.]

President Clinton. Thank you. Let me just say one thing about the ABM issue. We have worked together on nuclear issues very closely for virtually the whole time I've been in office and, actually, for quite a long time before that, before I became President. The decision that I made last week on our missile defense will create an opportunity for President Putin and the next American President to reach a common position. And I hope they can, because I think it's very important for the future that we continue to work together.

When we work together, we can destroy thousands of tons of nuclear materials and lots of nuclear weapons and work together in the Balkans for peace. I mean, we can get a lot of things done if we work together. So I hope that the decision that I made will enable my successor and President Putin to resolve this issue and to continue working together on all the arms control issues.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, the deadline set by Israel and the Palestinians is a week from today. Do you have any reason to believe that there might be something worked out by this time, or would you like the parties to discard the deadline?

President Clinton. Well, I haven't met with them yet, but I think that—I think we can work through that if there's a sense of progress—and one of the things I hope I

have a chance to talk to President Putin about—but I think the main thing they have to decide is whether there is going to be an agreement within what is the real calendar, which is the calendar that is ticking in the Middle East against the political realities in Israel as well as for the Palestinians. There's a limit to how long they have, and it's not very much longer.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:25 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Joint Statement: Strategic Stability Cooperation Initiative Between the United States of America and Russian Federation

September 6, 2000

President William Jefferson Clinton of the United States of America and President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation met today in New York and agreed on a Strategic Stability Cooperation Initiative as a constructive basis for strengthening trust between the two sides and for further development of agreed measures to enhance strategic stability and to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missiles and missile technologies worldwide. In furtherance of this initiative, the two Presidents approved an implementation plan developed by their experts as a basis for continuing this work.

The Strategic Stability Cooperation Initiative builds on the Presidents' agreement in their two previous meetings. The Joint Statement on Principles of Strategic Stability, adopted in Moscow on June 4, 2000, and the Joint Statement on Cooperation on Strategic Stability, adopted in Okinawa on July 21, 2000, establish a constructive basis for progress in further reducing nuclear weapons arsenals, preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty, and confronting new challenges to international security. The United States and Russia reaffirm their commitment to the ABM Treaty as a cornerstone of strategic stability. The United States and Russia intend to implement the provisions of the START I and INF Treaties, to seek early entry into

force of the START II Treaty and its related Protocol, the 1997 New York agreements on ABM issues and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and to work towards the early realization of the 1997 Helsinki Joint Statement on Parameters on Future Reductions in Nuclear Forces. The United States and Russia also intend to seek new forms of cooperation in the area of non-proliferation of missiles and missile technologies with a view to strengthening international security and maintaining strategic stability within the framework of the Strategic Stability Cooperation Initiative between our two countries.

The Strategic Stability Cooperation Initiative could include, along with expansion of existing programs, new initiatives aimed at strengthening the security of our two countries and of the entire world community and without prejudice to the security of any state.

START III Treaty and ABM Treaty. The United States and Russia have presented their approaches to the principal provisions of the START III Treaty and on ABM issues. The United States and Russia have held intensified discussions on further reductions in strategic offensive forces within the framework of a future START III Treaty and on ABM issues, with a view to initiating negotiations expeditiously, in accordance with the Moscow Joint Statement of September 2, 1998, the Cologne Joint Statement of June 20, 1999 and the Okinawa Joint Statement of July 21, 2000 by the two Presidents. They will seek to agree upon additional measures to strengthen strategic stability and confidence, and to ensure predictability in the military field.

NPT, CTBT, FMCT, BWC and Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones. The United States and Russia reaffirm their commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the foundation of the international nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime.

The United States and Russia will seek to ensure early entry into force and effective implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. They will continue to work to begin negotiations to conclude a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty and to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention. They will continue to facilitate the es-

tablishment of nuclear weapon-free zones in the world, based on voluntary agreements among states in the relevant region, consistent with the relevant 1999 Report of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, as an important avenue for efforts to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation.

Discussions of issues related to the threat of proliferation of missiles and missile technology. The United States and Russia are prepared to expand their discussions of issues related to the threat of proliferation of missiles and missile technologies. These discussions will include annual briefings based on assessments of factors and events related to ballistic and cruise missile proliferation. Annual assessments will address potential threats to international security. With a view to preventing the proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction, political and diplomatic measures will be discussed and undertaken, using bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

Cooperation in the area of Theater Missile Defense. The United States and Russia are prepared to resume and then expand cooperation in the area of Theater Missile Defense (TMD), and also to consider the possibility of involving other states, with a view to strengthening global and regional stability.

The sides will consider as specific areas of such cooperation:

- Expansion of the bilateral program of joint TMD command and staff exercises.
- Possibility of involving other states in joint TMD command and staff exercises.
- Possibility of development of methods for enhanced interaction for joint use of TMD systems.
- Joint development of concepts for possible cooperation in TMD systems.
- Possibility of reciprocal invitation of observers to actual firings of TMD systems.

Early warning information. The United States and Russia, in implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on the Establishment of a Joint Center for the Exchange of Data from Early Warning Systems and Notification of Missile

Launches signed in Moscow on June 4, 2000, intend to establish and put into operation in Moscow within a year the joint center for exchange of data to preclude the possibility of missile launches caused by a false missile attack warning. The Parties will also make efforts to come to an early agreement on a regime for exchanging notifications of missile launches, consistent with the statement of the Presidents at Okinawa on July 21, 2000.

Missile Non-Proliferation measures. The United States and Russia intend to strengthen the Missile Technology Control Regime. They declare their commitment to seek new avenues of cooperation with a view to limiting proliferation of missiles and missile technologies. Consistent with the July 21, 2000, Joint Statement of the Presidents at Okinawa, they will work together with other states on a new mechanism to integrate, *inter alia*, the Russian proposal for a Global Control System for Non-Proliferation of Missiles and Missile Technologies (GCS), the U.S. proposal for a missile code of conduct, as well as the MTCR.

Confidence and transparency-building measures. Bearing in mind their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the United States and Russia will seek to expand cooperation related to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to promote a mutually beneficial technical exchange that will facilitate the implementation of the CTBT after its entry into force. The United States and Russia are prepared to discuss confidence and transparency-building measures as an element of facilitating compliance with, preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty. These measures could include: data exchanges, pre-notifications of planned events, voluntary demonstrations, participation in observations, organization of exhibitions, and strengthening the ABM Treaty compliance verification process.

The Presidents of the United States and Russia have agreed that officials from the relevant ministries and agencies will meet annually to coordinate their activities in this area, and look forward with interest to such a meeting in the near future.

The United States and Russia call upon all nations of the world to unite their efforts to strengthen strategic stability.

The President of
the United States of America

The President of
the Russian Federation

New York City
September 6, 2000

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the Strategic Stability Cooperation Initiative Implementation Plan.

Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York City

September 6, 2000

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. Security Council President; to the Presidents of Finland and Namibia, the Co-Presidents of this remarkable Millennium Summit. First, let me say again on behalf of the American people, we are deeply honored to host each and every one of you in this largest ever gathering of world leaders. For many of you, this has been a long and difficult journey, and I thank you for coming.

Mr. Secretary-General, I think I speak for all here when I thank you for your hospitality, your leadership, your vision, and your inspiration. A year ago at this luncheon you looked ahead to the Millennium Summit and said the following: "It must go beyond a series of statements. It must make decisions, setting the agenda for the United Nations in the new century." You have helped to set that agenda by publishing your Millennium Report and the report on U.N. peace operations.

You have raised the hardest questions about the U.N.'s responsibilities in this new era and given some of the hard answers. And you have reminded us that the final answers must come from those with the authority and the resources to help the United Nations fulfill its mission. In the final analysis, all of us in this room and those whom we represent must be up to the challenge if the U.N. is to succeed.

This morning I had the opportunity to address the Assembly in terms of the challenge of making peace and of making the U.N. a more effective instrument of peace. Peace always needs champions who will stand for it because it will always have enemies who will stand against it.

Cervantes once said, "Every man is as heaven made him, and sometimes a great deal worse." [Laughter] Mr. Secretary-General, you are a man as heaven made you, and sometimes a great deal better. You have made the United Nations a trusted champion of the values it was founded to defend on the rough terrain of the real world. Some have called your hope and optimism, your lofty goals, idealistic. I say, good for you. Unless we first imagine the world we want to build, we cannot achieve it.

And so, Mr. Secretary-General, we thank you for your idealism. We are glad you are here in this position at this important time in history. The world needs you.

I ask all here to join me in a toast to the Secretary-General of our United Nations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. in the North Delegates Lounge at the United Nations. In his remarks, he referred to President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali, U.N. Security Council President; and President Tarja Halonen of Finland and President Sam Nujoma of Namibia, Co-Chairs, U.N. Millennium Summit. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of International Aid Workers in West Timor

September 6, 2000

I was deeply saddened to learn today of the death of three dedicated international aid workers, including an American citizen, Mr. Carlos Caseras. Mr. Caseras and his colleagues were employees of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees working on an international humanitarian effort in West Timor. They were killed, and several of their co-workers were injured by local militias who have been on a rampage of violence in West Timor. The United States has repeatedly called on the Indonesian Gov-

ernment to take the necessary actions to disarm and disband these militias. Only such steps will create a security environment that enables provision of humanitarian assistance, resolution of the refugee problem, and a return to peace in Timor.

This tragedy gives added urgency to the Indonesian Government's obligation to turn words into actions on Timor. The Government of Indonesia must live up to its commitments to restore order and to ensure the safety and welfare of all refugees and foreign nationals.

I want to extend my personal condolences and that of all Americans to Carlos Caseras's family and to the families of the other victims.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Legislation for a National Blood Alcohol Content Standard To Combat Drunk Driving

September 6, 2000

Dear _____:

I am writing to convey my strong support for a critical public safety issue under consideration by the Conference Committee for the FY 01 Transportation Appropriations bill. As you know, the Senate-passed Transportation Appropriations bill includes a provision sponsored by Senator Frank Lautenberg and supported by Senate Transportation Subcommittee Chairman Richard Shelby to help set a national impaired driving standard at .08 blood alcohol content (BAC). Currently, 18 states already have .08 BAC in place as the legal limit for drunk drivers, and I strongly support making this the nationwide standard. As the bill moves forward, I urge you to also address a number of other important issues that we have raised separately with the House and Senate versions of the bill.

The final 1999 Fatal Analysis Reporting System (FARS) assessment released today by Department of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater shows that alcohol-related traffic fatalities are continuing to decline and have hit a record low. However, we are still losing over 15,700 American lives in alcohol-related crashes every year—one every 33 minutes. It is imperative that we do more

to save lives and keep drunk drivers off our roads. Enacting a standard of .08 BAC across the country is the next logical step. Studies have shown that a nationwide limit of .08 BAC could save an estimated 500 lives a year.

That is why I strongly urge the Conference Committee to send me a final bill that includes this life-saving .08 BAC provision. The Congress missed an opportunity 2 years ago when conferencing the TEA-21 bill to make a .08 BAC standard mandatory, despite strong bipartisan support. Since that time, we have lost over 30,000 more Americans to impaired drivers on our nation's roads. We cannot afford to wait any longer to save more lives.

Along with the thousands of families that have lost loved ones to drunk drivers, I urge you to seize this opportunity to work with your colleagues on the Conference Committee and ensure this provision is in the final FY 01 Transportation Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Letters were sent to Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. An original was not available for verification of the contents of this letter.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Convention for the Unification of
Certain Rules for International
Carriage by Air With Documentation**
September 6, 2000

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, done at Montreal May 28, 1999 (the "Convention"). The report of the Department of State, including an article-by-article analysis, is enclosed for the information of the Senate in connection with its consideration of the Convention.

I invite favorable consideration of the recommendation of the Secretary of State, as contained in the report provided herewith, that the Senate's advice and consent to the

Convention be subject to a declaration on behalf of the United States, pursuant to Article 57(a) of the Convention, that the Convention shall not apply to international carriage by air performed and operated directly by the United States for noncommercial purposes in respect to its functions and duties as a sovereign State. Such a declaration is consistent with the declaration made by the United States under the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air, done at Warsaw October 12, 1929, as amended (the "Warsaw Convention") and is specifically permitted by the terms of the new Convention.

Upon entry into force for the United States, the Convention, where applicable, would supersede the Warsaw Convention, as amended by the Protocol to Amend the Warsaw Convention, done at Montreal September 25, 1975 ("Montreal Protocol No. 4"), which entered into force for the United States on March 4, 1999. The Convention represents a vast improvement over the liability regime established under the Warsaw Convention and its related instruments, relative to passenger rights in the event of an accident. Among other benefits, the Convention eliminates the cap on carrier liability to accident victims; holds carriers strictly liable for proven damages up to 100,000 Special Drawing Rights (approximately \$135,000) (Special Drawing Rights represent an artificial 'basket' currency developed by the International Monetary Fund for internal accounting purposes to replace gold as a world standard); provides for U.S. jurisdiction for most claims brought on behalf of U.S. passengers; clarifies the duties and obligations of carriers engaged in code-share operations; and, with respect to cargo, preserves all of the significant advances achieved by Montreal Protocol No. 4.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to a declaration that the Convention shall not apply to

international carriage by U.S. State aircraft, as provided for in the Convention.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 6, 2000.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea in New York City

September 7, 2000

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, how did your Middle East meetings go yesterday? And are there any more meetings planned—did you make any progress?

The President. Well, I think they went basically well. They were good, constructive meetings. I think they both very much want an agreement, and they understand they have a limited time in which to achieve it. And we discussed a whole range of things, in terms of where we were and where we were going.

I don't know if there will be any more meetings while we're here. I worked until late in the night last night, and as you see, I'm here with President Kim, and I have a few other meetings, and then we'll see where we are and what, if anything, else should be done while we're here. But I'm confident there will be a serious effort to work through these things over the next few weeks.

Q. Would that include a summit, sir, before the end of October?

The President. Well, there's been no discussion of that.

Oil Prices

Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your meeting with the Saudi Prince yesterday, any discussion of oil production?

The President. Yes, we talked about it. You know, I told him that I was very concerned that the price of oil was too high, not just for America but for the world, that if it's a cause of recession in any part of the world, that would hurt the oil producing countries, and there are other reasons why

it was not in their interest. And he agreed with that. He's been very strong about that.

And I said I certainly hoped that when OPEC met there would be an increase in production, because that was the policy they adopted. Remember, they adopted a policy that said if the price got outside the range—as I remember the range, it was \$22, \$28 a barrel—and they would take appropriate action. So I hope that they will.

Of course, in the United States, we had a particular concern because our inventories are at a 24-year low and because in this region, New York and up north, are so dependent on heating oil. And we're attempting now to fill our reserve and to look at what all of our options are, particularly for meeting the home heating oil needs of the American people. So we're working on all that.

I also will say it's not too late for Congress to pass the long-term energy agenda I've had up there for a couple of years, which will make us relatively less reliant on oil by increasing conservation and alternative technologies and energy sources. And I certainly hope that we'll be able to persuade them to pass that in this environment before they go home.

Korean Unification

Q. On Korean unification, do you see any prospects, sir?

The President. Well, I think you ought to ask President Kim. I think the main thing I would like to say about that is that I think he has done a brave and a good thing, not only for the people of his country and North Korea but for the whole stability of the region by taking this initiative. It has been very impressive to me, and I have strongly supported it. And I will continue to strongly support it. I think it's not only good on a human level but for the long-term security of the Korean Peninsula and all of east Asia—I think it is a very, very positive goal. We will continue to be supportive.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:03 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria. In his remarks, the President referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Remarks at a Reception for Leaders
of African Nations in New York City**
September 7, 2000

Well, first of all, let me thank Congressman Jefferson. This reception was his idea, and I thank him for his work on it—and all the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus who helped him who are detained in Washington for votes this afternoon. I want to thank all the leaders of African nations who are here and the diplomats and the business leaders who have come.

There's a simple purpose to this event. We want to say that Africa matters to America. Or as Reverend Jackson, my Special Envoy, was just saying, we don't see Africa as a continent of debtor nations; we see Africa as a credit bank for America's future, an opportunity for a real and genuine and lasting partnership.

I just got back from Nigeria and Tanzania, where I was with some of you in Arusha. And that trip reminded me again of all the positive things that are out there to be built in the future. It also enabled me to say something no American President had ever been able to say: I was glad to go to Africa for the second time.

But I think, and I hope and pray, that no future American President will ever not say that, that we will take it for granted that we should have a broad, comprehensive, in-depth, consistent relationship with Africa. We have a shared interest in making sure that the people of Africa seize their opportunities and work with us to build a common future.

Of course, the governments of Africa have to lay the foundations—the rule of law, a good climate for investment, open markets, and making national investments that broaden the economic base and provide benefits to ordinary people. These things will work.

Last year the world's fastest growing economy was Mozambique, and Botswana was second. Nigeria turned a fiscal debt into a surplus. So that will work. But we must also reach out through our Export-Import Bank, our Overseas Private Investment Corporation, our Trade and Development Agency to encourage more American investment in Africa.

We also should encourage the regional trade blocs to unite smaller economies into bigger economic units in more attractive markets. And as Bill Jefferson said, we're going to do our best to make the most of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, the trade act which the Congress passed earlier this year. When we fully implement it, Africa will have much greater access to American markets than any region in the world has to American markets outside North America, and I'm very proud of that.

We are also working to bridge some of the other divides, helping 20 African countries connect to the Internet, training more than 1,500 government and civic institutions to use it. We know we have to do more in communications in rural Africa. There are some rural areas where there is less than one phone line for every 500 inhabitants.

We don't want a digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world, but neither do we want a digital divide to develop within Africa itself, between cities that are connected and villages that are left out. So we will continue to do what we can for trade and technology. We know that is not enough.

A year ago I announced that we would support a global effort on debt relief and that we would completely write off the debts of as many as 27 African nations. Uganda has already used savings on debt payments to double its primary school enrollment—double. Senegal has used theirs to hire 2,000 teachers. Mozambique has used theirs to buy much-needed medicines.

I asked Congressman Jefferson to go back after meeting with all these leaders to influence the Congress to give us the \$435 million we need this year to fully fund our debt relief program this year and to continue to extend debt relief to other deserving countries who will take the savings and invest it in their people and their future.

I also believe we should do more to promote education in Africa. I have launched a \$300 million initiative, which I hope will be nothing more than a pilot program, to work with developing countries to provide free meals—nutritious breakfasts or lunches in school—so that parents will be encouraged to send 9 million more boys and girls to

school in countries that desperately need to increase school enrollment.

We estimate that if our friends around the world will join us and if we can cooperate with countries to deliver the food in an appropriate way and to make sure we don't interrupt local farm markets—we don't want to hurt local farmers anywhere—we estimate that for about \$4 billion worldwide, we could provide a nutritious meal in school to every child in every developing country in the entire world. That could change the face of the future for many African countries and many countries in Asia and Latin America, as well.

Finally, we're trying to do more to fight infectious diseases, especially AIDS. I want to thank Sandy Thurman, my AIDS Coordinator, who is here, for all the work she and others in my administration have done to try to help Americans realize that this is a global crisis. Earlier this year, we declared that AIDS was a national security issue for America.

There were some people who made fun of me when I did that—some people who said, "What's the President doing? How can AIDS be a national security crisis?" When you think about all the democracies we want to see do well in the 21st century and all the people who will lose their freedom because they can't even keep their people alive, it is quite clear that AIDS is, in fact, a national security challenge for the United States that we have to do more to meet.

Now, what are we doing in America? We, again—Bill Jefferson is here—we're trying to get Congress to approve a \$1 billion vaccine tax credit to give tax incentives to our big companies to develop vaccines that they otherwise would not develop because they know most of the people who need the medicine are not able to pay for it. So we are trying to cut the cost of developing it so they will still have a financial incentive to do it, and then, if they develop them, we'll find a way to pay for it and distribute it.

Even as we insist, however, on vaccine research and research for a cure, we should remember that AIDS is 100 percent preventable. We need to do more with education and prevention programs and to break the silence. We have a chance to take on this human challenge together.

One of the most moving experiences I have had as President—and I have been through a lot of interesting and profoundly emotional experiences the last 8 years—but one of the most moving things that's happened to me happened when we were just in Nigeria, and President Obasanjo and I went to this event in an auditorium with a lot of people to talk about what they were doing in Nigeria to try to prevent AIDS. So there were two speakers. The first speaker is a beautiful 16-year-old Nigerian girl who gets up and talks about what she's doing as a peer counselor to talk to her contemporaries to keep the children out of trouble. That was pretty good.

Then this young man gets up. I think he must have been about 30. And he talked about how he fell in love with a woman who was HIV positive and how his family and her family didn't want them to get married, and about how their priest didn't want them to marry, and they were deeply religious people, and how their love was so strong, they finally convinced the priest that they ought to get married. And he finally convinced the parents that it was all right, and so they did. And then he became HIV positive. And then his wife became pregnant. And he had already lost one job because he was HIV positive, and he was desperate to find the money to get the medicine for his wife so that there could be a chance that his child would be born without the virus. And finally, he got the money. His wife took the medicine. The baby was born without the virus, and he basically was affirming the fact that he was glad he followed his heart, even though he contracted the virus. He was glad that he and his wife had had a child who was free of HIV, and he wanted the world to do more to get rid of this illness.

And then the President of Nigeria brought his wife up on stage and embraced her in front of hundreds of people, and it was all over the press in Nigeria the next day. It changed the whole thinking of a nation about how to approach this disease, to treat the disease as the enemy but not the people who are gripped with it. It was an amazing encounter.

So I just say to all of you, we're committed for the long run. We want to take on the

great human challenges. We want to take on the great political challenges. There are some things that you will have to do, but I believe America is moving inexorably to be a much better partner over the long run for Africa. It is one of the things that I was determined to do when I became President. I am more determined today than I was. And I am more convinced today that it is not an act of charity. It is an act of enlightened self-interest for the world that we should be building together.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Jesse Jackson, the President's Special Envoy to Africa; President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria; Tayo Akimuwagun, peer educator, National Center for Women Development (Nigeria); and John Ibekwe, president, Nigerian Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS.

Remarks to the United Nations Security Council in New York City September 7, 2000

Thank you very much. Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, members of the Security Council. We come together in this historic session to discuss the role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security. I thank President Konare for the moment of silence for the U.N. workers who died in West Timor yesterday and ask the Indonesian authorities to bring those responsible to justice, to disarm and disband the militias, and to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of those continuing to work on humanitarian goals there.

Today I would like to focus my peacekeeping remarks on Africa, where prosperity and freedom have advanced but where conflict still holds back progress. I can't help noting that this historic meeting in this historic Chamber is led by a President and a Secretary-General who are both outstanding Africans. Africans' achievements and the United Nations' strengths are evident. Mozambique and Namibia are just two success stories.

But we asked the United Nations to act under increasingly complex conditions. We

see it in Sierra Leone, where U.N. actions saved lives but could not preserve the peace. Now we're working to strengthen the mission. In the Horn of Africa, U.N. peacekeepers will monitor the separation of forces so recently engaged in brutal combat. In Congo, civil strife still threatens the lives of thousands of people, and warring parties prevent the U.N. from implementing its mandate.

We must do more to equip the United Nations to do what we ask it to do. They need to be able to be peacekeepers who can be rapidly deployed, properly trained and equipped, able to project credible force. That, of course, is the thrust of the Secretary-General's report on peacekeeping reform. The United States strongly supports that report. It should be the goal of our assistance for West African forces that are now going into Sierra Leone.

Let me also say a word, however, beyond peacekeeping. It seems to me that both for Africa and the world, we will be forced increasingly to define security more broadly. The United Nations was created to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. War kills massively, crosses borders, destabilizes whole regions. Today, we face other problems that kill massively, cross borders, and destabilize whole regions.

A quarter of all the deaths on the planet now are caused by infectious diseases like malaria, TB, and AIDS. Because of AIDS alone, life expectancy in some African nations is plummeting by as much as 30 years. Without aggressive prevention, the epicenter of the epidemic likely will move to Asia by 2010 with very rapid growth rates also in the new independent states.

The affected nations must do more on prevention, but the rest of us must do more, too, not just with AIDS but also with malaria and TB. We must invest in the basics, clean water, safe food, good sanitation, health education. We must make sure that the advances in science work for all people.

The United States is investing \$2 billion a year in AIDS research, including \$210 million for an AIDS vaccine. And I have asked our Congress to give a tax credit of \$1 billion to speed the development in the private sector of vaccines against AIDS, malaria, and

TB. We have to give the tax credit because the people who need the medicine can't afford to pay for it as it is. We've worked to make drugs more affordable, and we will do more. And we have doubled our global assistance for AIDS prevention and care over the last 2 years.

Unfortunately, the U.N. has estimated that to meet our goals, we will collectively need to provide an additional \$4 billion a year. We must join together to help close that gap, and we must advance a larger agenda to fight the poverty that breeds conflict and war.

I strongly support the goal of universal access to primary education by 2015. We are helping to move toward that goal, in part, with our effort to provide school lunches to 9 million boys and girls in developing nations. For about \$3 billion a year, collectively, we could provide a nutritious meal to every child in every developing country in a school in the world. That would dramatically change the future for a lot of poor nations today.

We have agreed to triple the scale of debt relief for the poorest countries, but we should do more. This idea of relieving debt, if the savings will be invested in the human needs of the people, is an idea whose time has long since come, and I hope we will do much more.

Finally, Mr. Secretary-General, you have called on us to support the millennium ecosystem assessment. We have to meet the challenge of climate change. I predict that within a decade, or maybe even a little less, that will become as big an obstacle to the development of poor nations as disease is today.

The United States will contribute the first complete set of detailed satellite images of the world's threatened forests to this project. We will continue to support aggressive efforts to implement the Kyoto Protocol and other objectives which will reduce the environmental threats we face.

Now, let me just say in closing, Mr. President, some people will listen to this discussion and say, "Well, peacekeeping has something to do with security, but these other issues don't have anything to do with security and don't belong in the Security Council." This is my last meeting; I just have to say I respectfully disagree. These issues will be

more and more and more in the Security Council. Until we confront the iron link between deprivation, disease, and war, we will never be able to create the peace that the founders of the United Nations dreamed of. I hope the United States will always be willing to do its part, and I hope the Security Council increasingly will have a 21st century vision of security that we can all embrace and pursue.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. in the Security Council Chamber at the United Nations. In his remarks, he referred to President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali, President, U.N. Security Council; and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Joint Statement by the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council on the Millennium Summit

September 7, 2000

We, President Jiang Zeming of the People's Republic of China, President Jacques Chirac of the Republic of France, President Vladimirovich Putin of the Russian Federation, Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and President William Jefferson Clinton of the United States of America have met in New York on 7 September 2000 and hereby state the following:

Mindful of the special responsibilities of the Permanent Members of the Security Council in regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, we share a solemn commitment to ensuring that the UN is stronger, more effective and more efficient than ever before as it enters the 21st Century.

The challenges facing the UN and the world community are daunting. To meet such challenges, the world community's response must be quicker, more targeted, and better coordinated than ever before. As the world's only truly universal organization—in terms both of its mandate and its membership—the UN has an essential role in the 21st Century.

The UN can only be as effective, as creative and as authoritative as its members will

it to be. Moving into the next century, the Permanent Members of the Security Council pledge, together with the entire membership, to strengthen the UN, ensure the authority of the Security Council and uphold the Purposes and Principles of the Charter. Bearing primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council, in particular its Permanent Members, has an abiding interest in ensuring that the UN is equipped to meet the challenges it faces. We therefore commit ourselves to strengthen the operational capabilities of the Security Council in this area. Only by strengthening our dedication to the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter, and by endowing the UN with the means to deliver on its many commitments, can we fulfill our obligations to ensure that the UN can achieve its full potential.

To this end, we will focus our efforts on the following priority areas:

Enhancing Leadership for Peace and Security—The UN's leadership role, particularly in maintaining international peace and security, must be strengthened to reflect the organization's changing challenges and priorities. This evolution must take into account both the shifting face of the world community and the types of conflicts the UN must confront today. We commit ourselves to foster a more transparent and broadly representative UN Security Council to enhance its effectiveness as the leading body in the field of international peace and security.

Strengthening Peacekeeping—The nature and number of international conflicts demanding UN involvement has shifted fundamentally over the past decade, a change that has yet to be reflected in structural reforms to equip the UN to fulfill the array of mandates it now faces. We pledge to move expeditiously to endow the UN with resources—both operational and financial—commensurate to the tasks it faces in its peacekeeping activities worldwide. Enhancing the United Nations peacekeeping capacity should strengthen the UN's central role in conflict prevention and settlement. We look to the recommendations of the Secretary General's Expert Panel on Peace Operations as an important element to be con-

sidered in order to ensure the UN's effectiveness in this vital arena.

Revitalizing Management—The breadth, scope, and complexity of the UN's activities demand effective leadership. We pledge to support steps to empower the Secretary General with a mandate to modernize and streamline the Secretariat further, to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of programs, and to focus the organization's resources on priority areas, while bringing closure to activities that no longer warrant continued investment.

Replenishing Human Resources—The UN's most valuable resource is its people. The skill, vision, and dedication of the UN Secretariat staff have made possible all that the UN has accomplished to date, and will determine the organization's future. We pledge to support prompt steps to ensure that the UN's base of human capital, particularly in the field of peacekeeping, can be fortified through a process that is transparent, equitable, and designed to attract the very best talent available from all corners of the world.

Reaffirming Financial Commitment—As enshrined in the Charter, the UN's financial base must accurately reflect the capabilities and responsibilities of every Member State. We pledge to support measures to broaden the resource base for this institution through financial structures that are equitable, transparent and reflective of current realities for the regular budget and the peacekeeping budget, and the financing of UN activities. We recognize the need to adjust the existing peacekeeping scale of assessments, which is based on the 1973 system, in light of changed circumstances, including countries' current capacity to pay.

Taking into account our special responsibilities as Permanent Members of the Security Council and the duty of all Member States to meet their financial obligations to the UN, we commit to creating a more stable and equitable financial foundation for current and future UN operations, including through adjustments to the peacekeeping scale of assessment to reflect the role of all Member States, and especially the role of all Permanent Members in peacekeeping financing.

In each of these areas we pledge to work together in coming months and years to ensure that the UN is imbued with the resources, the vision, and the support it needs. As Permanent Members of the Security Council, we will continue to fulfill our obligations under the Charter and commit to making UN organization stronger and more effective. To that end, we agree to have more regular exchanges of views on important international issues at all levels.

We express our appreciation and support for the UN Secretary General for the role he plays in the service of peace, development and strengthening the United Nations.

As we move into the next century, we pledge to work with the entire UN membership to bridge differences and agree on new measures to build on the promise of the UN's first 55 years.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the "Child Support Distribution Act"
September 7, 2000

I commend the House of Representatives for its broad bipartisan approval today of the "Child Support Distribution Act." Vice President Gore and I are committed to promoting responsible fatherhood and making sure more child support goes directly to children, and this bill is an important step toward achieving these goals.

This legislation, which is similar in many ways to my administration's child support budget proposals, allows States to pass through more child support payments directly to families and simplifies child support distribution rules. Like our "Fathers Work/Families Win" initiative, this bill also provides grants to help low-income fathers and families work, pay child support, and reconnect with their children. These initiatives build on our longstanding commitment to strengthen the role of fathers in their children's lives.

I encourage the Senate to take up this important legislation this year, and I look forward to working with the Congress across

party lines to ensure that more fathers can honor their responsibilities and more children can receive both the emotional and financial support they need.

Statement on the Retirement of the Times Square National Debt Clock

September 7, 2000

Today we reach a symbolic moment in the improvement of our Nation's fiscal situation that few could have imagined 8 years ago—the retiring of the National Debt Clock in Times Square. Thanks to Seymour Durst and his family, the Debt Clock helped shine a vital spotlight on America's mounting national debt, which quadrupled between 1980 and the day I came into office. The Debt Clock was a constant reminder of the enormous challenge we faced. Today, because of the hard work of the American people and the fiscal discipline that the Vice President and I have worked hard to maintain, we are on our way to eliminating America's publicly held debt for the first time since 1835.

This year we will pay off \$221 billion of debt—the largest one-year debt paydown in American history. This will be the third consecutive year of debt reduction, bringing the 3-year total to \$360 billion and leading to lower interest rates, mortgages, and car payments for American families. We should not be complacent, however, about our fiscal progress. Our record surpluses and the shutting down of the Debt Clock only underscore the importance of maintaining our commitment to the fiscal discipline which has helped create the longest economic expansion in history and will keep us on path to completely pay off the debt by 2012.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Estate Tax Legislation

September 7, 2000

I commend the House Members who voted today to reject the majority's flawed

estate tax bill. While I support estate tax relief that addresses family farms, small businesses, and principal residences, the approach taken by the majority in Congress is part of a \$2 trillion tax plan that would take us back to the days of deficits, high interest rates, and fiscal irresponsibility. This is a misguided bill that provides a huge tax cut for the most well-off Americans at the expense of working families. It is a key ingredient of a Republican tax plan that would leave nothing for Social Security, Medicare, education, or a voluntary, affordable prescription drug benefit.

This back-loaded bill explodes in cost from \$100 billion from 2001–10 to \$750 billion from 2011–20, just when Medicare and Social Security will come under strain. It benefits only 2 percent of all estates in America and provides half of its benefits to about 3,000 families annually, while more than 10 million Americans wait for an increase in the minimum wage and tens of millions of seniors lack dependable prescription drug coverage. Furthermore, studies by economists have found that repealing the estate tax would reduce charitable donations by \$5 billion to \$6 billion per year.

If the congressional leadership is serious about estate tax relief for small businesses, family farms, and principal residences of middle-class families that have increased in value, they should work with me in a fiscally responsible manner as Democrats in Congress have proposed. Together, we can strengthen Social Security and Medicare, invest in key priorities, and pay off the debt by 2012. This is the right priority for America.

**Statement on the Report of the
Interagency Commission on Crime
and Security in United States
Seaports**

September 7, 2000

I am pleased to receive the report of the Interagency Commission on Crime and Security in U.S. Seaports. In April 1999, I directed the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Commission

to undertake a comprehensive study of the nature and extent of crime in our seaports and the state of security in those seaports. I also direct the Commission to review the ways in which Federal, State, and local governments are responding to the problem and develop recommendations for improving law enforcement and crime prevention.

Seaports are a key component of our Nation's Marine Transportation System and serve as major gateways for international commerce. As barriers to trade and travel are reduced and volumes of international cargo and passengers continue to grow, opportunities for criminals to exploit or disrupt maritime commerce increase. It is thus essential that we maintain effective security and border control measures to thwart criminals seeking to use our seaports for terrorism, fraud, theft, or smuggling of illegal drugs, migrants, weapons, and other contraband.

The Commission's report documents the current crime problem in seaports, identifies present and projected security threats, and recommends a number of useful measures aimed at reducing the vulnerability of maritime commerce and its supporting infrastructure. The Chief of Staff has initiated a review of the Commission's recommendations, with a view to implementing them as appropriate.

I would like to commend Secretary Summers, Attorney General Reno, and Secretary Slater for their leadership in this important initiative. I would also like to express my appreciation to cochair Commissioner Ray Kelly of the U.S. Customs Service, Administrator Clyde Hart of the U.S. Maritime Administration, and Assistant Attorney General Jim Robinson, Department of Justice, to their fellow commissioners, and to the professional staff for their vision and hard work in carrying out this initiative.

**Exchange With Reporters Prior to
Discussions With President Jiang
Zemin of China in New York City**

September 8, 2000

***Permanent Normal Trade Status for
China/National Missile Defense System***

Q. Can you offer any assurances to President Jiang on the China trade bill, that it

will eventually be passed, and on the national defense system that you deferred last week?

President Clinton. I believe the legislation will pass, and I'm pleased at the progress it's making in the Senate. But of course, we still have some work to do. The missile defense issue will be resolved by my successor, although I hope we get a chance to talk about it a little bit today.

Human Rights in China

Q. Mr. President, will you make any requests of President Zemin on the question of human rights as attached to the permanent normal trade relations bill?

President Clinton. We're going to discuss human rights issues, as we always do, but I feel very strongly that PNTR should pass. And I think over the long run it's good for the development of democracy and human rights in China, and I know it's good for America-Chinese relationships over the long run.

United Nations Security Council Summit

Q. Mr. Clinton, I know that yesterday you were present at the P-5 summit, which was a Chinese initiative. So as the President of the United States, also a permanent member of the Security Council, what would you say about the P-5 summit yesterday? And also, how do you see the role of China for international peace and security in this century?

President Clinton. Well, first of all, I think it was a very good idea by President Jiang to have the P-5 meet. I was amazed that they had never met, or hadn't met in a long time. And I think it was a very good idea. And we actually made a specific decision to, as a group, help the Secretary-General implement his report on peace-keeping and to continue to explore what else we could do together.

I think it might be a forum in the future that would provide an opportunity for Chinese cooperation with the other members of the P-5 in a way that would be very helpful to the rest of the world, as well.

President Fidel Castro of Cuba

Q. Could you describe your encounter with Fidel Castro yesterday?

The President. What Joe said is right. It just happened. There were a whole lot of people in a line. I was talking to them. I turned around, and he was standing there. He apparently had come up and waited, and we must have—the encounter lasted just a few seconds. That's all that happened.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:40 a.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria. In his remarks, the President referred to White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 2

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton visited the New York State Fair in Syracuse. In the afternoon, they traveled from Syracuse to Cazenovia, NY, and in the evening, they returned to Washington, DC.

September 5

In the morning, the President met with Democratic congressional leaders in the Oval Office.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Davorin Kracun of Slovenia, Kgosi Seepapitso IV of Botswana, Andres Bianchi of Chile, S Tu'a Taumoepeau-Tupou of Tonga, Atan Shansonga of Zambia, Yusuf Abdulrahman Nzibo of Kenya, Przemyslaw Grudzinski of Poland, Teodoro Biyogo Nsue of Equatorial Guinea, Francisco Javier Ruperez-Rubio of Spain, Leila Rachid-Cowles of Paraguay, Yang Sung-chul of South Korea, Bader Omar Al-Dafa of Qatar, and Jan Kenneth Eliasson of Sweden.

The President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom concerning trade between the United States and the European Union.

In the evening, the President traveled to New York City.

The President announced his intention to nominate David A. Nasatir to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederick Slabach to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Foundation.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Connecticut and New York on September 11.

September 6

In the morning, the President met with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam at the Waldorf-Astoria. In the afternoon, he met separately with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority at the Waldorf-Astoria. In the evening, he met separately with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and King Abdullah II of Jordan at the Waldorf-Astoria. Later, he attended a Progressive Governance dinner in the Hilton Room at the Waldorf-Astoria.

The President announced the nomination of Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Senator Rod Grams to be United States Representatives to the 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

September 7

In the morning, the President met with President Ahmet Sezer of Turkey at the Waldorf-Astoria. In the afternoon, he met separately with Presidents Jiang Zemin of China, Jacques Chirac of France, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom at the Waldorf-Astoria.

September 8

In the afternoon, the President met separately with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland and President Hugo Banzer of Bolivia at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 6

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.,
of Delaware, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Rod Grams,
of Minnesota, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Submitted September 7

Valerie K. Couch,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, vice Wayne E. Alley, retired.

Marian McClure Johnston,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California, vice Lawrence K. Karlton, retired.

David A. Nasatir,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2003, vice Terrence B. Adamson, term expired.

Robert B. Pirie, Jr.,
of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, vice Jerry MacArthur Hultin, resigned.

Frederick G. Slabach,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2005, vice Norman I. Maldonado, term expired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by Chief of Staff John Podesta, Office of Management and Budget Director Jack Lew, Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director Sylvia Mathews, and Deputy Assistant to the President for Health Policy Chris Jennings on the legislative agenda

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger on the President's upcoming visit to the United Nations Millennium Summit

Announcement: Official Delegation Accompanying the President to New York for the U.N. Millennium Summit

Released September 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a readout to the pool by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Senior Adviser to the Under Secretary for International Security and Arms Control Jim

Timbie on the President's meeting with President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Fact sheet: U.S. Support for the United Nations: Engagement, Innovation, and Renewal

Released September 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on the meeting of the U.N. Security Council

Fact sheet: President Clinton and the Millennium Summit: Protecting the Global Environment

Fact sheet: U.S. Efforts on the Millennium Report "Call to Action" on Poverty and Economic Development Issues

Fact sheet: U.S. Efforts on HIV/AIDS and Infectious Diseases

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.